News Release

Idaho Policy Makers to Attend Digital Government 'Boot Camp'

"Digital Government – Making Idaho Competitive" is the theme for the second annual 2001 Digital Government 'Boot Camp' for Idaho Policy Makers to be held Thursday, October 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

Idaho legislators, elected officials, city and county leaders and commissioners, college and university presidents and education leaders, Tribal representatives, and information technology professionals will be attending the intensive, one-day program. The session focuses on state and local agency use of digital technology in improving the delivery of information and services; and making government more 'citizen-centric' to citizens.

A national authority on digital government and its implications for public policy makers, Dr. Jerry Mechling, Director of Strategic Computing and Telecommunications in the Public Sector, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, will open the session by leading a discussion to help Idaho leaders engage information technology issues more directly and successfully. Also keynoting the event is Gina Smith, CEO of The New Internet Company and former ABC television news technology commentator. Smith will identify key trends in a digital world and will speak to how rapid changes in technology are impacting our lives at home and at work.

Other presenters include David Temoshok, Public Key Infrastructure Policy Manager, General Services Administration in Washington, D.C., who will discuss the critical needs of strong security, authentication, and data confidentiality for e-business transactions. Edward Fraga, Vice President, Gartner Public Sector Consulting Services, will address the planning, design and funding issues relevant to implementing digital government.

Pam Ahrens, Chairman of the Information Technology Resource Management Council, (ITRMC) and Director of the Idaho Department of Administration, will lead discussions

on the state's IT initiatives and progress. A highlight of the event is the interactive "Best Practices Booths" where over 20 state and local government agencies will demonstrate on-line applications accessible through their respective websites.

At noon, the ITRMC will formally recognize outstanding IT efficiency and innovation by Idaho agencies when its presents the ITRMC Information Technology Achievement Awards at a special awards luncheon.

The ITRMC is sponsoring the 'boot camp' and is partnering with Idaho technology firms MicronPC, Hewlett-Packard, Qwest, Access Idaho; and with Oracle, Dell Computer Corporation, and the National Information Consortium. In addition, the event is involving participants from the "Connect Idaho: Attracting High Speed Telecommunications Conference" being held that week at BSU, and with cooperation of the Idaho Rural Partnership, Bechtel, and the Idaho Economic Development Association.

For more information see: http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/projects/register.htm

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